

University Apartments E304  
Bloomington, Indiana  
February 25, 1952

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Your formal offer of the full-time assistantship is quite satisfactory to me. I am glad to accept the position under the terms stated, with but one reservation. This is that, in the unlikely event that I should be awarded a fellowship by the National Science Foundation, I should be free to reconsider the offer. The possibility of that's happening, however, is so very slight that you need have little concern over it.

In regard to the job, I hope I will be able to perform the duties efficiently and well. Although I am inexperienced at this sort of work, I shall acquire as much skill as possible between now and September. There are three points in your letter which I should like to discuss further.

The first is that of the month's leave. If it is possible, I should like to arrange about the timing of this soon after coming up to Madison, so that my absences will all be decided long in advance. I have known misunderstandings to arise over a failure to settle such matters definitely, and would not care for this to occur in our case.

The second point is in regard to the stipend, which you state to be, "...not less than \$2640 for the year." At your convenience would you please make a more definite statement in order that I may know precisely on how much I can count in the next year? This point is important primarily because of certain family obligations.

Thirdly, since the purpose of the job is toward furthering my education, I intend taking course work concurrently. Therefore I would not forego academic status.

Thank you very much for making this offer, and for writing so thoroughly concerning it. I regret my lack of promptness in replying, but your letter came in the midst of an extremely hectic week, and I didn't have time to formulate my answer immediately. I am looking forward with considerable anticipation to coming to Madison and joining your group, and I rejoice that you have made it possible.

Sincerely,

*Helen Louise Byers*